

**MEGASTIGMUS SPERMOTROPHUS WACHTL.
(HYMENOPTERA: CHALCIDOIDEA)
(DOUGLAS-FIR CHALCID) FOUND IN
NEW YORK STATE¹**

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ABSTRACT: A seed and cone insect survey in New York state documented the first recorded occurrence of *Metastigmus spermotrophus* Wachtl. in the eastern United States.

Preliminary surveys of seed and cone insects are being conducted in conjunction with an evaluation of conifer seed production in New York. Seeds and cones were collected and examined for insect damage. Adults of *Megastigmus spermotrophus* Wachtl. emerged from a collection of Douglas-fir [*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco] cones. This is the first record of *M. spermotrophus* in the eastern United States.

M. spermotrophus is widespread in the western United States, throughout the range of Douglas-fir (Hedlin et al. 1980). In addition, it has been recorded in Scotland, Germany and New Zealand (Gourlay 1930, Hanson 1952 and Milliron 1949).

Detection of *M. spermotrophus* is difficult due to the seclusion of larvae in seeds, where the larvae may remain in diapause for up to three years. Larvae can be detected by radiography (Ruth 1980), but no external evidence of damage is present until the adult chalcid emerges in the spring (Hedlin et al. 1980, Keen 1958, and Milliron 1949).

METHODS AND RESULTS

Sixty Douglas-fir cones from Columbia and Orange counties, (Clermont and Windsor townships, respectively) in eastern New York were examined. These cones were collected from the ground beneath ornamental trees in April 1983 and held indoors at approximately 20°C. Within three weeks, 26 chalcids (7 males and 19 females) emerged from the overwintering seeds. Additional collections will be made in the coming year to evaluate the impact and extent of this Douglas-fir seed pest.

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The following Opinions have been published by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, vol. 40, part 3, on 21 October 1983:

Opinion No.

- 1257 (p. 149) *Tipula ferruginea* Fabricius, 1805 (Insecta, Diptera): conserved.
- 1258 (p. 151) *Ochthera exsculpta* Loew, 1862 (Insecta, Diptera): placed on the Official List.
- 1260 (p. 157) *Orthunga* Dohrn, 1859 (Insecta, Hemiptera): added to Official List.

The Commission regrets that it cannot supply separates of Opinions.

R.V. MELVILLE, Secretary